

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An optical disc comprising:

a data recording area for recording data; and

a drive information area for recording drive-specific information, wherein:

the drive information area comprises a plurality of clusters,

each cluster comprises a plurality of sectors,

each sector has capacity for storing one record of drive-specific information,

the plural records of drive-specific information are arranged in an order in which the plural records were recorded with a last-recorded record of the plural records of drive-specific information located in a first sector of a current cluster following a last sector of a previous cluster,

new drive-specific information is newly recorded to a first sector in a new cluster,

information from all sectors except a last sector in an immediately preceding cluster is newly recorded to sectors following the first sector in the new cluster which includes the new drive-specific information, the immediately preceding cluster being recorded with all previous records of drive-specific information, and

the new cluster is immediately next to the preceding cluster in the same drive information area in ~~an outward radial direction of the optical disc.~~

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) An optical disc as described in claim 1, wherein

the drive-specific information includes ~~at least a manufacturer identifier for identifying a manufacturer of an optical disc drive, a drive identifier of the optical disc drive, and recording/playback conditions including a required laser power level~~ drive.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) An optical disc as described in claim 1, further comprising at least a first recording layer and a second recording layer each read by a read beam incident thereto from a same side of the optical disc, wherein

the drive information area for recording drive-specific information is disposed to the first recording layer, and

an area in the second recording layer at a same radial position as the drive information area is unrecorded.

Claims 5 and 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) An optical disc drive for writing on to ~~using~~ an optical disc having a data recording area for recording data, and a drive information area for recording drive-specific information, wherein the drive information area comprises a plurality of clusters, each cluster comprises a plurality of sectors, each sector has capacity for ~~recording~~ storing one record of drive-specific information, and the plural records of drive-specific information are arranged in an order in which the plural records were recorded with a last-recorded record of the plural records of drive-specific information located in a first sector of a current cluster following a last sector of a previous cluster, the optical disc drive comprising:

a writing unit operable to write, at a time of recording new drive-specific information, the new drive-specific information to a first sector in a new cluster, and to write information from all sectors except a last sector in an immediately preceding cluster to remaining sectors following the first sector in the new cluster which includes the new drive-specific information, the immediately preceding cluster being recorded with all previous records of drive-specific information,

wherein the new cluster is immediately next to the preceding cluster in the same drive information area in ~~an outward radial direction of~~ the optical disc.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) An optical disc recording method for recording to an optical disc having a data recording area for recording data, and a drive information area for recording drive-specific information, wherein the drive information area comprises a plurality of clusters, each cluster comprises a plurality of sectors, each sector has capacity for recording one record of drive-specific information, and the plural records of drive-specific information are arranged in an

order in which the plural records were recorded with a last-recorded record of drive-specific information located in a first sector of a current cluster following a last sector of a previous cluster, the optical disc recording method comprising:

writing, at a time of recording new drive-specific information, the new drive-specific information to a first sector in a new cluster, and writing information from all sectors except a last sector in an immediately preceding cluster to remaining sectors following the first sector in the new cluster which includes the new drive-specific information, the immediately preceding cluster being recorded with all previous records of drive-specific information,

wherein the new cluster is immediately next to the preceding cluster in the same drive information area in ~~an outward radial direction~~ of the optical disc.

Claim 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) An optical disc as described in ~~claim 3~~, claim 13, wherein the drive identifier is a serial number of the optical disc drive.

Claim 12 (New) An optical disc as described in claim 1, wherein

the new cluster is immediately next to the preceding cluster in the same drive information area in an outward radial direction of the optical disc.

Claim 13 (New) An optical disc as described in claim 1, wherein

the drive-specific information includes a drive identifier of the optical disc drive.

Claim 14 (New) An optical disc as described in claim 1, wherein

the drive-specific information includes recording/playback conditions including a required laser power level.

Claim 15 (New) An optical disc drive as described in claim 7, wherein

the drive-specific information includes a manufacturer identifier for identifying a manufacturer of an optical disc drive, and

the writing unit is operable to write the manufacturer identifier to the drive information area.

Claim 16 (New) An optical disc drive as described in claim 7, wherein the drive-specific information includes a drive identifier of the optical disc drive, and the writing unit is operable to write the drive identifier to the drive information area.

Claim 17 (New) An optical disc drive as described in claim 7, wherein the drive-specific information includes recording/playback conditions including a required laser power level, and the writing unit is operable to write the recording/playback conditions including the required laser power level to the drive information area.

Claim 18 (New) An optical disc drive as described in claim 7, wherein the optical disc further comprises at least a first recording layer and a second recording layer each read by a read beam incident thereto from a same side of the optical disc, the drive information area for recording drive-specific information is disposed to the first recording layer, and an area in the second recording layer at a same radial position as the drive information area is unrecorded, and the writing unit is operable to write the drive-specific information to the first recording layer.

Claim 19 (New) An optical disc drive for reading from an optical disc having a data recording area for recording data, and a drive information area for recording drive-specific information, wherein the drive information area comprises a plurality of cluster, each cluster comprises a plurality of sectors, each sector has capacity for storing one record of drive-specific information, and the plural records of drive-specific information are arranged in an order in which the plural records were recorded with a last-recorded record of the plural records of drive-specific information located in a first sector of a current cluster following a last sector of a previous cluster, and new drive-specific information is newly recorded to a first sector in a new cluster, information from all sectors except a last sector in an immediately preceding cluster is newly

recorded to sectors following the first sector in the new cluster which includes the new drive-specific information, the immediately preceding cluster being recorded with all previous records of drive-specific information, the optical disc drive comprising:

a reading unit operable to read the new cluster, at a time of playback recording data,
wherein the new cluster is immediately next to the preceding cluster in the same drive information area of the optical disc.

Claim 20 (New) An optical disc drive as described in claim 19, wherein

the drive-specific information includes a manufacturer identifier for identifying a manufacturer of an optical disc drive, and

the reading unit is operable to read the manufacturer identifier from the drive information area.

Claim 21 (New) An optical disc drive as described in claim 19, wherein

the drive-specific information includes a drive identifier of the optical disc drive, and

the reading unit is operable to read the drive identifier from the drive information area.

Claim 22 (New) An optical disc drive as described in claim 19, wherein

the drive-specific information includes recording/playback conditions including a required laser power level, and

the reading unit is operable to read the recording/playback conditions including a required laser power level from the drive information area.

Claim 23 (New) An optical disc drive as described in claim 19, wherein

the optical disc further comprises at least a first recording layer and a second recording layer each read by a read beam incident thereto from a same side of the optical disc,

the drive information area for recording drive-specific information is disposed to the first recording layer, and an area in the second recording layer at a same radial position as the drive information area is unrecorded, and

the reading unit is operable to read the drive-specific information from the first recording layer.